

TO: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Special Agent
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division

FROM: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Special Agent
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Homeland Security Division

DATE: October 15th, 2009

RE: Summary of Hazardous Materials Incident- CES Environmental Services

On August 4, 2009, U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division (CID) conducted a federal search warrant at CES Environmental Services, 4904 Griggs Road, Houston, Texas. EPA Special Agent assigned to the Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics, and Training (OCEFT), Homeland Security Division (HSD), conducted a health and safety assessment with other EPA Special Agents and law enforcement personnel on the initial entry to the CES facility. During the initial entry, air monitoring and chemical detection equipment was used to assess the air quality of the CES facility to protect worker safety and identify any potential hazards that may harm EPA personnel during the execution of the search warrant.

During the walk-thru assessment, several 40 yard, steel, roll-off containers were noted in CES process area. The roll off containers appeared to contain waste products as part of CES process being conducted at the facility. One of the containers outside the process area building was noted as emitting a white cloud of material. Air monitoring and chemical detection equipment was used to record the air quality of the plume of white material. Elevated levels of volatile organics (315ppm), carbon monoxide (17ppm), and hydrogen sulfide (2ppm) were detected using a Multi-Rae Plus. A pH of 13/14 standard units was also measured using pH paper in the plume of white material coming off the materials in roll off container. No radiation was detected during the assessment. The container was not labeled or placarded for hazardous materials.

Following the assessment of the plume of white material, CES personnel were asked to identify and secure the waste materials inside the roll off container. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) an employee of CES, offered to help with identifying the waste material along with securing the roll off container. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that the white smoke coming off the materials inside the roll off container were the result of a chemical reaction from amine and acid rags, along with other waste materials. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) further explained that the materials were from Delta, Inc. (a client of CES) dumped into the roll off by CES from 55-gallon drums stored on-site. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that during the CES process of dumping the waste material into the roll off, the amine rags were reacting with sunlight and generating heat. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) also stated that CES typically mixed the amine rags with wood chips and/or oil dry (absorbent) materials to stop the reaction. The roll off was also covered to prevent sunlight from hitting the materials. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) explained that this roll off was

characterized as non-hazardous and was to be disposed of at a non-hazardous landfill. In addition, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that he knew the materials were dangerous and filled with hazardous materials. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) further stated that CES management determines where the materials are disposed of not him.

The roll off container was then covered and moved by CES personnel to back of the facility. At approximately 1:00pm (1300), white smoke was again noted coming from the roll off container.

At approximately 3:47pm (1547) the Houston Fire Department (HFD) was called due to the potential for fire and/or explosion associated with the roll off container. Shortly after the call, the HFD Hazmat Team arrived on-scene. During the initial assessment, the roll off container started on fire.

The HFD conducted safety operations and contained the fire.